

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 COME-00 PM-03 DODE-00

NSF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MSO:WAERB:CMC

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MSO:WAERB

ARA/BR - MR. R. ELTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, BR

SUBJECT: NOAA SHIP MT. MITCHELL

REF: A. BRASILIA A-108

B. STATE 133810

C. STATE 139525

D. STATE A 2831

E. BRASILIA 2558

1. REF (A) INFERS GOB IS DISTURBED AT NOT RECEIVING WHAT
THEY CONSIDERED ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF
PORT CALL NOAA SHIP MT. MITCHELL TO FORTALEZA, 23-26 APRIL.
DEPT CONSIDERS SUCH DISTURBANCE UNWARRANTED. REFS (B),
(C), AND (D) REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT NEAR-BRAZIL PORTION
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OF VESSEL'S PLANNED TRACK HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE GOB

RPT GOB HAD INSISTED THAT THIS PORTION OF TRACK BE COMPLETED BY BRAZILIAN VESSEL. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, IN FACT, THAT GOB (EMBRATEL) REPRESENTATIVE ABOARD VESSEL INSISTED THAT VESSEL ABORT ITS PLANNED TRACK AT DISTANCE OF 300 MILES FROM BRAZILIAN COAST. IT WAS THIS INSISTENCE BY GOB THAT REQUIRED NOAA TO CANCEL PLANNED PORT CALL TO FORTALEZA.

2. FURTHERMORE, MT. MITCHELL HAD NOT RECEIVED FORMAL APPROVAL TO MAKE PORT CALL AND EVEN THE INFORMAL APPROVAL

HAD BEEN RECEIVED SO LATE THAT IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT MT. MITCHELL WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PORT CALL, EVEN IF GOB REPRESENTATIVE HAD NOT INSISTED ON CANCELLATION OF VESSEL'S TRACK.

3. FROM OUR INTERPRETATION OF SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT BRAZILIAN NAVY WAS NOT AWARE OF ROLE PLAYED BY EMBRATEL (AND/OR OTHER GOB BUREAU(S)) IN CANCELLATION OF MT. MITCHELL TRACK. IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT BRAZILIAN NAVY WAS UNAWARE OF ANY EMBRATEL (OR OTHER GOB) INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROGRAM. IF SUCH IS THE CASE, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT TO GOB THAT U.S. MADE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EMBRATEL SUPPORT FOR MT. MITCHELL TRACK, EVEN TO POINT OF CHANGING VESSEL'S SCHEDULE TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME TO OBTAIN SUCH SUPPORT FROM EMBRATEL.

4. AT SAME TIME, DEPT. APPRECIATES EFFORT MADE BY BRAZILIAN NAVY TO PROCESS OUR REQUEST FOR MT. MITCHELL PORT CALL IN LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AND REGRETS ANY INCONVENIENCE TO BRAZILIAN NAVY FROM CANCELLATION OF TRACK AND OF PORT CALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF SOURCE DEPT. ALSO CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN BEST POSSIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZILIAN NAVY IN SUCH MATTERS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PROCESSING OF SIMILAR REQUESTS IN FUTURE.

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS REQUESTED THAT IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO SERIOUS OBJECTION IT COMMUNICATE TO GOB OUR VIEW THAT GOB DISPLEASURE OVER THIS INCIDENT IS UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WARRANTED, CITING INFORMATION INCLUDED ABOVE AND IN REFTELS. THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD ALSO STRESS, HOWEVER, OUR REGRETS OVER ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO BRAZILIAN NAVY AND SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT SUCH PROBLEMS ARE AVOIDED IN FUTURE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR POLICY TO COOPERATE WITH AND TO MINIMIZE INCONVENIENCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR PORT CALLS. KISSINGER

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